

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IOE-00 OIC-02 /112 W

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P 111738Z NOV 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6752

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DEPT PLS REPEAT TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, ILO

SUBJECT: REACTION TO U.S. BRIEFING ON LETTER OF INTENT TO
WITHDRAW FROM ILO

REF: A) STATE 259502; B) STATE 259540; C) GENEVA 7947

1. SUMMARY: REACTION TO BRIEFING OF GENEVA BASED REPS OF GOVERNMENT MEMBERS OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY ON U.S. LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO (REFTELS) WAS CAUTIOUS. MOST INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES EXPRESSED REGRET AT U.S. ACTION BUT WELCOMED ESTABLISHMENT OF CABINET-LEVEL COMMITTEE IN USG AND MY OFFER TO CONSULT ON FUTURE U.S. POSTURE IN ILO; LDCS RESERVED COMMENT. LOW-KEY RESPONSE NOT UNEXPECTED (GENEVA BASED AMBASSADORS WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS DO NOT FOLLOW ILO CLOSELY) AND POINTS UP NEED FOR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS IN GENEVA AND IN CAPITALS IN IMPLEMENTING FUTURE U.S. POLICY IN ILO. END SUMMARY.

2. I BRIEFED SEPARATELY THE ILO DG'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
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(FORTIN), THE OFFICERS OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY AND AMBASSA-

DORS OF CHARGES' OF UK, JAPAN, CANADA AND NORWAY. I THEN HELD TWO GROUP BRIEFINGS, THE FIRST FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF BELGIUM, ITALY, FRG, NETHERLANDS, FRANCE, SWITZERLAND AND ISRAEL; AND THE SECOND FOR THIRD WORLD MEMBERS OF ILO GOVERNING BODY (INDIA, MEXICO, IRAN, BRAZIL, TRINIDAD, YUGOSLAVIA, ZAIRE, KUWAIT, LIBERIA, PAKISTAN AND SRI LANKA).

3. ILO DG'S CHEF DE CABINET, BERNARD FORTIN, REACTED TO BRIEFING AND TO TEXT OF LETTER OF INTENT BY SAYING(1) HE PERSONALLY REGRETTED NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM ANY ILO MEMBER BUT PARTICULARLY FROM IMPORTANT MEMBER LIKE U.S. AND (2) THAT CONSULTATION ON HIGH LEVEL BETWEEN U.S. AND INDUSTRIALIZED MEMBERS OF ILO WOULD BE BENEFICIAL BOTH FOR ILO ITSELF AND IN REACHING U.S. OBJECTIVES EXPRESSED IN NOTICE OF INTENT. (COMMENT: THIS IS REMINDER THAT DG BLANCHARD HAS PROPOSED HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATION BETWEEN U.S. AND EUROPEAN MEMBERS -REF C.)

4. THE ILO GOVERNING BODY OFFICERS (CHAIRMAN COOK OF AUSTRALIA AND EMPLOYERS VICE-CHAIRMAN GULLMAR BERGENSTROM OF SWEDEN) WERE NONCOMMITTAL, SIMPLY STATING THEY HAD NO MANDATE TO SPEAK ON THE MATTER.

5. RESPONSE OF UK AMBASSADOR WAS MOST ENTHUSIASTIC OF THE DAY. HE SAID U.S. MOVE WAS OPPORTUNITY FOR INDUSTRIALIZED MEMBERS OF ILO TO RALLY BEHIND U.S. BECAUSE ALL WERE BASICALLY IN AGREEMENT WITH FOUR PROBLEM AREAS IDENTIFIED IN U.S. NOTICE. HE SAID BRITISH TUC NOT LIKELY TO BE RECEPTIVE TO U.S. POLICY BECAUSE OF COMMUNIST AND LEFT WING INFLUENCE BUT ADDED THAT STRONG U.S. POSTURE MIGHT FORCE UKG AND TUC TO FACE DOUBLE STANDARD ISSUE; HE CITED UK VOTE IN FAVOR OF RESOLUTION CONDEMNING CHILE AT JUNE ILO CONFERENCE AND NOTED UKG HAD OVERRULED HIS RECOMMENDATION ON CHILE RESOLUTION.

6. CANADIAN CHARGE AND STAFF MEMBERS CONCERNED WITH ILO EXPRESSED REGRET AT U.S. MOVE BUT WELCOMED U.S. DESIRE TO CONSULT ON MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST IN ILO. JAPANESE AMBASSADOR, AFTER READING LETTER, SAID HIS COUNTRY ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT EROSION OF TRIPARTITISM, DOUBLE STANDARD, AND OTHER AREAS CITED BY U.S. AND THAT HE AND GOJ LOOK FORWARD TO CLOSER COOPERATION WITH U.S. NORWEGIAN CHARGE AND CONCERNED STAFF MEMBER LISTENED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SYMPATHETICALLY AND ASKED FOR EXAMPLES OF CHANGES WHICH U.S. WOULD SEEK IN ILO. SPECIFICALLY THEY WONDERED HOW THIS WOULD EFFECT U.S. POSTURE IN ILO WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE. I SAID SPECIFICS OF U.S. POLICY WOULD BE SPELLED OUT BY NEW CABINET LEVEL COMMITTEE AND EMPHASIZED OUR DESIRE TO HAVE NORWEGIAN VIEWS CONSIDERED BY THIS COMMITTEE.

7. FRG, ITALIAN, AND BELGIAN AMBASSADORS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT

PROBABILITY OF PROGRESS IN FOUR AREAS CITED IN U.S. LETTER. BELGIAN CITED NEED FOR U.S. TO MAKE COMPROMISES ON STRUCTURAL ISSUES. FRENCH AMBASSADOR MERELY NOTED THAT U.S. COMPLAINTS FOCUSED ON ILO ANNUAL CONFERENCE. I TOLD HIM THIS WAS INTENTIONAL AND THAT U.S. CRITICISM OF ILO WORK WOULD FOLLOW DELIBERATIONS OF CABINET LEVEL COMMITTEE. SWISS AMBASSADOR ASKED IF OTHER ILO MEMBERS WOULD ALSO GIVE NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW. I TOLD HIM WE KNEW OF NO OTHER COUNTRIES CONTEMPLATING THIS MOVE AND THAT WE HAVE NOT ASKED OTHER MEMBERS TO TAKE THIS STEP NOR WOULD IT SERVE OUR PURPOSE, WHICH IS TO STAY IN AND PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY IN ILO. (COMMENT: SWISS GOVERNMENT HOLDS MORTGAGE ON NEW ILO BUILDING; ITS LONGSTANDING POLICY OF ENCOURAGING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO LOCATE IN GENEVA COULD BE AFFECTED IF U.S. IN FACT CHOSE TO LEAVE ILO.) ISRAELI AMBASSADOR NOTED HIS COUNTRY HAD BEEN OBJECT OF VIOLATION OF DUE PROCESS IN ILO, WAS HAPPY THAT U.S. HAD GIVEN NOTICE, AND HOPED TO WORK WITH U.S. IN SEEKING PROGRESS IN ILO. ALTHOUGH ILO NOT LIKELY TO BECOME PERFECT IN NEXT TWO YEARS, HE SAID SUPPORT OF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES FOR U.S. GAVE CHANCE OF CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS. (COMMENT: IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION, ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TOLD ME HE HAD RECOMMENDED GOI NOT FOLLOW U.S. AND GIVE NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW. HE ALSO SAID MATTER WOULD BE RAISED AT CABINET MEETING NOVEMBER 9 BUT ACTION WOULD BE POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO ASSURANCE FROM HISTADRUTH THAT AFL-CIO NOT EXPECTING ISRAELIS TO GIVE NOTICE.)

8. LDC REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBERS IN GOVERNING BODY READ LETTER IN SILENCE AND HAD NO QUESTIONS IN RESPONSE TO ORAL BRIEFING. ALMOST ALL WERE UNFAMILIAR WITH ILO AFFAIRS.

9. AS PROPOSED IN GENEVA 8085 (NOTAL), DCM SIMPLY INFORMED SOVIETS AND HUNGARIANS BY TELEPHONE THAT WE HAD DELIVERED LETTER OF INTENT. DALE
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NOTE BY OC/T: GENEVA 8512 NOT PASSED ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

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Message Attributes

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